

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 1, line 5, as follows:

-- This is a continuation-in-part of United States patent application serial no. 09/505,724, filed February 17, 2000, which, in turn, is a continuation application of United States patent application serial no. 08/881,278, filed June 24, 1997 (now abandoned), which, in turn, is a continuation-in-part application of application serial no. 08/610,455, filed March 4, ~~1996~~, 1996 (now United States Patent ~~5,835,246~~ Patent 5,835,264). --

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 6, line 15, as follows:

-- The method of the invention for stereoscopic viewing of microscopic images with high resolution is characterized by the following:

- (a) in or near the aperture diaphragm plane of the illuminating beam path (entry pupil of the objective), a light modulator is provided which shifts the centroid of the illuminating beam into two positions at a clock frequency so that the object is illuminated at an angle required for the stereoscopic viewing with the maximum possible aperture;
- (b) means are provided for alternately displaying the two images of the stereoscopic image pair on an image display apparatus

and the clocking or pulsing of the image display apparatus takes place in synchronism with the clocking of the light modulator;

- (c) the sequence or repetition frequency makes possible a flicker-free image impression; and,
- (d) the variation of the depth of field and resolution takes place with a variable diaphragm approximately in the plane of the entry pupil or in the image thereof. --

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 8, line 28, as follows:

-- In FIG. 3, an illuminator L illuminates the object O via a collector K and a condenser KO. The object O modulates the light or is excited to self-illumination (for example, fluorescence). Condenser KO and objective OB image the entry pupil EP into the exit pupil AP. The field lens FL generates, via mirrors (S1, S2, S3), an image of the exit pupil AP in the plane of blocking means in the form of the light modulator LM which, for example, can be configured as a LCD modulator. The mirrors S2 and S3 can be advantageously coupled and displaced as a unit as indicated by double arrow 8 in FIG. 3 in order to precisely image the exit pupils of different objectives OB in the plane of the light modulator LM. --